

Media Advisory:
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**Jesse White Encourages Organ/Tissue Donation during
National Minority Donor Awareness Week**



Secretary of State Jesse White joined with organ donors and recipients to mark National Minority Donor Awareness Week, August 1-7. The “Wave Away the Waiting” event, which was held on the plaza of the James R. Thompson Center, served to encourage organ/tissue donation in multicultural communities. Nationally, minorities comprise more than 58 percent of the waiting list for organ transplants; however, they account for only 36 percent of organ donors, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

(Secretary White pictured at podium is joined by from left to right: Mayra De La Cruz and her mother Antonia De La Cruz, a kidney recipient, Jack Lynch, Gift of Hope, Barbie McKennie, Gift of Hope, Kevin Cmunt, Gift of Hope, Mazhar Sahi, two-time liver recipient, Nicole Brown, heart recipient, and Craig Matheis, kidney donor.)